

# MCA ADVISORY

An Occasional Publication of Medal Collectors of America

July 1, 2003 – Beginning our Sixth Year

Post Office Box 615

Mahopac NY 10541

## MCA PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DAVID T. ALEXANDER

MCA has enjoyed a productive year since our last annual meeting at the New York ANA. January 2003 brought a highlight, the first major MCA event outside an ANA Convention. This was a highly successful forum-meeting at the **New York International Numismatic Convention (NYINC)** in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Feature speakers were **John W. Adams of Boston** and **Christopher Eimer of London**. Despite the bitter cold and the failure of the hotel's heating system above the 17<sup>th</sup> floor, that inconvenienced the bourse area spread over several rooms, 29 members and guests attended the meeting.

We were treated to a remarkable overview of our two speakers' ongoing work in U.S. and British medallic history. Adams' work on medals of the U.S. colonial era, and on Indian Peace Medals have made him a leader in the rebirth of interest in the American medal. Eimer's research on Britain's Pingo dynasty of engravers, and in British commemorative medals have placed him among the most active researchers of modern times.

A number of MCA members shared information on the progress they are making in a variety of research areas, including the Society of Medalists and medals of Britain's King Edward VIII. I hope that an MCA gathering at NYINC can become a regular feature of NYINC.

MCA's financial position is solid as we enter our sixth year. We are well funded with some \$8,000 in our checking account. We have a number of high quality articles in the hopper for the next issue of *The Medal Cabinet*. Our greatest need is for workers in the vineyard. It took me and my wife some 75 man hours to complete the first *Medal Cabinet*. Thanks to a increasingly demanding work load and the daily commute, I simply do not have the necessary time to devote to the next number.



Our publications have not made the progress we would have wished. I have been unable to contact our newsletter editor since November 2002. Two good issues had been generated under his direction but there has been an apparent interruption for reasons never explained to me.

Below under Elections readers will find that John W. Adams and John J. Kraljevich Jr. have accepted nominations for the posts of MCA President and Vice President respectively. We will need nominations for Secretary, Treasurer and seven Directors for the 2003-2004 term. Are YOU interested in serving MCA? If so, come to our Annual Meeting!

## AVE ATQUE VALE

This year's annual meeting will be my last as President of MCA. When I founded the organization I expected that a number of hard-core collectors would join in the day-to-day work required to sail the ship after its successful launch in Portland. Rather fewer have come forward than I had hoped but growth at "all deliberate speed" was our realistic goal from the start. *MCA Advisory* was first described as "An Occasional Publication" for good reason. I did not want to promise anything I could not deliver

Recent issues were called quarterly and then ceased to appear. "Occasional," once again, was chosen for a purpose. In the coming year, if more members pitch in, publications can move at greater speed.. We have the funding. We have reasonable prospects, but must have more HELP.

It has been a pleasure launching MCA. We are the only successful, continuing organization working on behalf of medal COLLECTORS. Those who remember the abortive Collectors of Art Medals, CAM, recall the results of pie-in-the-sky overconfidence MCA has delivered what it promised, on a modest, deliberate level and that has been our greatest strength in the formative years.

Our **Carl W.A. Carlson Award** is now well established, and the 2003 recipient will be announced in Baltimore. Our honorees each represent a vital area of the medal: **John W. Adams**, research and publication; **H. Joseph Levine**, bringing quality medallic cataloging to the auction world; **R.W. Julian** for his unmatched *Medals of the United States Mint – the First Century*; **Christopher Eimer**, overseas medal expertise. We also made a special presentation to **Patricia Carlson**, Carl's widow, in his memory.



We've had some busy years and have accomplished much under difficult circumstances. I expect to continue serving MCA in any way possible and my faith in our future remains undiminished. Much has been accomplished, more remains but the future is bright both for medals and for MCA!

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*David T. Alexander*

## THANKS ARE IN ORDER

It's always dangerous to list people for a well-deserved thank you, because it is almost certain that some one will be inadvertently overlooked. To that person, THANK YOU, right now (you know who you are). The following individuals helped out most powerfully since 1998. My wife **Pat Alexander** endured me through the hectic organizational stage and contributed countless computer hours to *The Medal Cabinet*. **Larry Stack** of my employers, Stack's, encouraged me from the start and contributed massively to funding our first issue. Executive Director **Dr. Ute Wartenberg-Kagan** honored the first issue of *The Medal Cabinet* by printing and mailing some 2,000 additional copies to the ANS mailing list. **Brenda Bishop** of ANA has been a source of never-ending cooperation at conventions. Helping out in many different ways were (in alphabetical order) **John W. Adams, Paul Bosco, Tom DeLorey, Christopher Eimer, John J. Ford Jr., Bob Fritsche, Michael J. Hodder, Bob Julian, Scott Miller, David Provost, Alex Shagin, Elizabeth Stanfield, Pete Smith, Doug Thurber, Stan Turrini, Karen Worth.**

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## MCA ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 31, 2003, BALTIMORE

MCA will convene its **Sixth Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2003 at 3 PM in Room 313 of the Baltimore Convention Center.** All MCA members and any medal collectors not already members are invited. This will be an important meeting for our developing organization, featuring reports of the President and officers, a major presentation by our speaker, Dr. David Menchell of Queens, New York, and the election of officers and directors.



## DR. DAVID MENCHELL –

## WASHINGTONIANA RESEARCHER

This year's MCA speaker will be **Dr. David Menchell**, an active member of the new generation of researchers into the history of U.S. medals. His MCA talk will be based on his ongoing in-depth research into the origins of many of the well-known medallic portraits of George Washington, tracing the iconographic source of each portrait. Dr. Menchell first shared the results of his research on this complex subject at the November 1999 American Numismatic Society **Coinage of the Americas Conference**. He is an active member of the New York Numismatic Club, ANA, ANS and has long been a leader of the Flushing Coin Club.

Dr. Menchell will be exhibiting many of the actual materials described in his talk, "Tracing the Iconography of George Washington in Medals" at the Baltimore ANA convention.



## MCA ANNUAL ELECTION

The following nominations have been received as of July 1, 2003: for **President, John W. Adams**; for **Vice President, John W. Kraljevich Jr.**; for **Director, David T. Alexander**. Needed are nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, six additional Directors. Are YOU willing to serve?



## DUES NOTICE

Dues of \$20.00 are now payable for 2003-2004. Members may pay at the annual meeting or through the mail.